

MEMORANDUM

To: Water Advisory Committee

April 1, 2016

From: Chris DeGabriele, TAC Chair 

Subj: Consider Resolution Regarding the State Board Drought Emergency Urban Water Conservation Regulations

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RECOMMENDED ACTION: WAC adopt a Resolution requesting the State Water Resources rescind the application of Emergency Drought Water Conservation Regulations to Sonoma-Marín Retail Water Agencies

FINANCIAL IMPACT: None at this time

On February 2, 2016 the State Water Resources Control Board adopted an extended and revised Emergency Regulation to ensure that urban potable water conservation continues in 2016. The readopted Emergency Regulation extends restrictions on urban water use through October 2016. The State Board's Resolution readopting the Emergency Regulation directed State Board staff to report back on the possible additional modification once more complete water supply information is known in April.

The State Board intends to hold a workshop on April 20th where the State Board staff will report on water supply conditions. Comments must be submitted by noon on Thursday, April 14th in advance of the State Board workshop.

Previously, several Water Contractors have submitted individual comments and comments have been submitted collectively through the Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership. These comments were unsuccessful in lessening or modifying the State Board requirements. The tactic proposed at this point is to adopt a WAC resolution adding a local elected official emphasis and be more persuasive in urging the State Board to rescind the Drought Regulations.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

WAC adopt a Resolution concerning the State Water Resources Control Board Drought Emergency Urban Water Conservation Regulations requesting the State Board rescind the Emergency Regulations to the Water Contractors and small water suppliers in the Sonoma-Marín region.

DRAFT

**RESOLUTION OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY**

*RESOLUTION OF THE WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO SONOMA COUNTY WATER AGENCY
CONCERNING THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DROUGHT EMERGENCY URBAN
WATER CONSERVATION REGULATIONS*

WHEREAS, the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) is advisory to Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) and holds certain powers and responsibilities enumerated in the Restructured Agreement for Water Supply between SCWA and its Water Contractors (Cities of Cotati, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, Town of Windsor and the Forestville, North Marin and Valley of the Moon Water Districts) including acting as collective spokesperson for the Water Contractors; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 2015, Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-29-15, which required in part that the State Water Resources Control Board impose restrictions to achieve a 25% reduction in urban potable water use by February 29, 2016, compared to usage in 2013; and

WHEREAS, on May 5, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted drought emergency water conservation regulations to implement the Governor's mandate, including a range of conservation standards to reduce potable water production by urban water suppliers; and

WHEREAS, the emergency water conservation regulations required the Water Contractors to reduce potable water production ranging from 16% to 28% and required smaller public water suppliers to achieve a 25% reduction or limit outdoor irrigation to no more than two days per week; and

WHEREAS, the Water Contractors and Marin Municipal Water District receive Russian River Water supply from Sonoma County Water Agency and are members of the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership which members have collectively reduced water production by 23% from June 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016 compared to a collective water conservation standard of 19%; and

WHEREAS, the smaller public water suppliers in the Sonoma-Marin region have also complied with the State emergency water conservation regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership members are committed to continued water conservation and have agreed to expend \$15 million dollars on water conservation implementation from July 2008 through July 2018 and have agreed to maintain membership in good standing with the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) and implement the Best Management Practices as outlined by the CUWCC; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership members commitment to water conservation, has resulted in a 37% reduction in per capita water use since 2000; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 2015, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-36-15, which specified in part that, should drought conditions persist through January, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board would continue restrictions through October 31, 2016 to achieve statewide reductions in potable water usage, including modifications to address potable and non-potable water, and to incorporate insights gained from existing restrictions; and

WHEREAS, on February 2, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted an extension of the conservation regulations until October 31, 2016, which contained no changes in the provisions relevant to WAC agencies, although the regulations did provide reductions in conservation requirements for water agencies in warmer and drier parts of the state, for those that recently implemented potable recycled water or desalination projects, and for those that had experienced population growth since 2013; and

WHEREAS, on April 20, 2016, the State Water Resources Control Board will conduct a public workshop on potential modifications to the emergency water conservation regulations to address hydrologic conditions through March, and will consider changes to the regulations at a subsequent meeting in May, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Sonoma-Marin region has received above average rainfall to-date this water year and surface water reservoirs in Marin County, filled to capacity and over topped spillways on March 11, 2016 and the water supply pools in Russian River surface water reservoirs filled on March 6, 2016 and now encroach into the flood control pools, all resulting in normal water year conditions, and;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Drought Monitor currently classifies Marin County and Sonoma County as having no drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, there are no physical facilities in place to move available water supplies from the Sonoma-Marin region to other areas of California which may or may not have insufficient water supplies.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the WAC that, due to adequate water supplies and the lack of any drought conditions, the WAC requests that the State Water Resources Control Board rescind the application of emergency drought water conservation regulations to the Water Contractors and small water suppliers in the Sonoma-Marin region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the WAC on this 4th day of April, 2016.

AYES: _____

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Michael T. Healy, Chairman
Water Advisory Committee to Sonoma County Water
Agency